

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3292

To provide for the establishment of the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge  
in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 10, 1999

Mr. BAKER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on Resources

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## A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Cat Island National  
Wildlife Refuge in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4       The Congress finds that—

5               (1) as the southernmost unleveed portion of the  
6       Mississippi River, Cat Island, Louisiana, is one of  
7       the last remaining tracts in the lower Mississippi  
8       Valley that is still influenced by the natural dynam-  
9       ics of the river;

1           (2) Cat Island supports one of the highest den-  
2           sities of virgin bald cypress trees in the entire Mis-  
3           sissippi River Valley, including the Nation's cham-  
4           pion cypress tree which is 17 feet wide and has a  
5           circumference of 53 feet;

6           (3) Cat Island is critical habitat for several de-  
7           clining species of forest songbirds and supports  
8           thousands of wintering waterfowl;

9           (4) Cat Island supports high populations of  
10          deer, turkey, and furbearers, such as mink and bob-  
11          cats;

12          (5) protection and enhancement of this area  
13          through inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge  
14          System would help meet the habitat protection goals  
15          of the North American Waterfowl Management  
16          Plan;

17          (6) these forested wetlands represent one of the  
18          most valuable and productive wildlife habitat types  
19          in the United States, and have extremely high rec-  
20          reational value for hunters, fishermen, birdwatchers,  
21          nature photographers, and others; and

22          (7) the Cat Island area is deserving of inclusion  
23          in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

24 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS:**

25          For purposes of this Act—

1           (1) the term “Refuge” means the Cat Island  
2       National Wildlife Refuge authorized to be estab-  
3       lished under section 3; and

4           (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
5       of the Interior, acting through the United States  
6       Fish and Wildlife Service.

7       **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES OF REFUGE.**

8           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established  
9       as a National Wildlife Refuge the “Cat Island National  
10      Wildlife Refuge”. The Refuge shall consist of the lands,  
11      waters, and interests therein acquired by the Secretary for  
12      the Refuge, including those acquired under section 5(a).

13          (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Refuge are—

14              (1) conservation and enhancement of wetlands;

15              (2) general wildlife management as a unit of  
16      the National Wildlife Refuge System, including man-  
17      agement of bottomland hardwood wetland habitat  
18      for migratory waterfowl, neotropical songbirds, and  
19      bald eagles;

20              (3) protection and enhancement of endangered  
21      species;

22              (4) promotion of fish and wildlife-oriented rec-  
23      reational activities that are compatible with the pur-  
24      poses described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3); and

1           (5) promotion of increased stewardship of the  
2       natural resources through environmental education,  
3       interpretation, and other outreach methods.

4       (c) NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary  
5       shall publish a notice of the establishment of the Refuge—

6           (1) in the Federal Register; and

7           (2) in publications of local circulation in the vi-  
8       cinity of the Refuge.

9       **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF REFUGE.**

10       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer all  
11       lands, waters, and interests therein acquired under section  
12       5(a) in accordance—

13           (1) with the National Wildlife Refuge System  
14       Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–  
15       668ee) and the Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C.  
16       460k–460k–4); and

17           (2) the purposes of the Refuge set forth in sec-  
18       tion 3(b).

19       (b) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary  
20       may use such additional statutory authority as may be  
21       available to the Secretary for conservation and develop-  
22       ment of wildlife and natural resources, water supplies, and  
23       water control structures, outdoor recreational activities,  
24       and interpretive education as the Secretary deems appro-  
25       priate to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF LANDS, WATERS, AND INTERESTS**  
2 **THEREIN.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to ac-  
4 quire for inclusion in the Refuge, by purchase or donation,  
5 approximately 9,477 acres of lands and interests therein  
6 on Cat Island, Louisiana, and water areas adjacent to  
7 such lands. All lands, waters, and interests acquired under  
8 this subsection shall be part of the Refuge.

9 (b) AVAILABILITY OF MAP; NOTICE.—After making  
10 the acquisitions authorized by subsection (a), the Sec-  
11 retary shall—

12 (1) produce a map depicting the boundaries of  
13 the designated area of the refuge;

14 (2) keep the map of the Refuge on file and  
15 available for public inspection at offices of the  
16 United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

17 (3) publish in the Federal Register a notice of  
18 that availability.

19 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated to the De-  
21 partment of the Interior—

22 (1) such sums as are necessary for the acquisi-  
23 tion of lands and waters designated pursuant to sec-  
24 tion 5(a); and

- 1           (2) such sums as are necessary for the develop-
- 2           ment, operation, and maintenance of the Refuge.

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